

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SUVA 00131 201642Z

66

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 PM-07 L-03 IO-14 EB-11 SIG-04

CU-04 INR-10 AID-20 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

NSC-10 OMB-01 PC-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 LAB-06 RSC-01

DRC-01 SIL-01 FEA-02 TAR-02 SPC-03 /180 W

----- 104770

R 201402Z FEB 74

FM AMEM BASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2690

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T SUVA 131

EO 11652 CH GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR EGEN FJ

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT: FIJI

REF: INGERSOLL-HALL OF DEC 20, 1973 FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY
INGERSOLL FROM CHARGE

1. US INTERESTS: OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES CONTAINED SECTION
ONE FIJI PARA REMAIN VALID ALTHOUGH PARA IT SELF HAS NOT
RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL

2. POLITICAL TRENDS: CONSERVATIVE ALLIANCE PARTY GOVT
OF RATUMARA HAS ON WHOLE GIVEN FIJI GOOD GOVT IN THREE AND
HALF YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE. MULTI RACIAL POLICIES OF GOF HAVE
BEEN SUCCESSFUL, CONSIDERING CULTURAL AND RACIAL GAP SEPARATING
FIJIANS FROM INDIANS (WHO MAKE UP 51 PERCENT OF POPULATION).
IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN SOME MANIFESTATION OF DISSAT-
ISFACTION ON PART OF SMALL SEGMENT OF RACIAL FIJIANS WHO
FEEL INDIANS ARE GETTING TOO LARGE PROPORTION OF GOVT
BENEFITS. MOVEMENT CENTERS SO FAR AROUND ONE MEMBER PARLIAMENT
AND HAS SO FAR AROUSED ONLY MINOR PUBLIC APPEAL. OPPOSITION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SUVA 00131 201642Z

NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY (PRIMARILY INDIAN) INEFFECTIVE

AND UNDER PRESENT LEADERSHIP POSES NO THREAT TO ALLIANCE. GOF IS LARGELY ONE-MAN SHOW, SINCE PRIME MINISTER TENDS TO BE AUTOCRATIC AND TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN ALL DECISIONS. HE IS ONLY PERSON ON SCENE AT PRESENT TIME WITH ANY FOLLOWING AND FIJI WILL BE IN SORE TROUBLE IF HE PERSISTS IN PLAN TO RETIRE WHEN TERM OF GOVT EXPIRES IN 1975. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT SUCCESSOR IS BEING GROOMED.

3. FOR MOST PART FIJI HAS BEEN ACTIVE SUPPORT OF US INITIATIVES IN UN, PARTICULARLY IN COMMITTEE OF TWENTYFOUR. WHEN MICRONESIA ISSUE REACHES UN FIJI, A SPECIFIC STATE, WILL PLAY ACTIVE ROLE AND COULD BE OF TREMENDOUS ASSISTANCE TO US IF ITS SUPPORT CAN BE GAINED. THIS WILL NOT BE GIVEN AUTOMATICALLY. FIJI WILL WANT PROOF THAT SOLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE TO PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA BEFORE MAKING THIS DECISION.

4. ECONOMIC SITUATION: SO FAR FIJI HAS NOT BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT BY FUEL CRISIS. TWENTY PERCENT CUT IN SUPPLIES HAS THUS FAR BEEN ABSORBED BY VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS BY POPULACE AND NO GOVT RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED. INCREASED PRICES FOR FUEL WILL BE INFINITELY MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM. FINANCE MINISTRY PREDICTS THAT EVEN WITH TEN PERCENT CUT IN FUEL IMPORTS (OVER 1973 LEVELS) INCREASED COSTS WILL TAKE PERHAPS AS MUCH AS US DOLS 27.5 MILLION FROM FOREIGN RESERVES IN FIFTY YEAR. PROBLEM EXACERBATED BY FACT THAT FIJI HAS SO LITTLE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LEVERAGE.

5. ON JANUARY 1ST FIJI ABOLISHED COMMON WEALTH PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS AND WENT ON SINGLE LINE SYSTEM IN ORDER TO DECREASE HEAVY RELIANCE ON AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND GOODS AND TO INCREASE IMPORTS FROM US. PURPOSE OF LATTER WAS BOTH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHEAPER US GOODS AND TO MAKE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH US LESS OVERWHELMINGLY IN FIJIS FAVOR (321 IN 1972) AND THUS HELP FIJI IN JUSTIFYING REQUEST FOR LARGER US UAR QUOTA. RECENT STRENGTHENING OF US DOLLAR AND INCREASED SHIPPING COSTS MAY WORK AGAINST THIS ATTEMPT TO EVEN TRADE GAP.
HALL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, DESEGREGATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SUVA00131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740220/aaaaasnl.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: INGERSOLL-HALL OF DEC 20, 1973 FOR A, SSISTANT SECRETARY
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT: FIJI
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EGEN, FJ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005